

Message Text

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63

ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 855

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3128

EXDIS

FOR AMB. BUFFUM (IO)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, APER, UNDP

SUBJ: UNDP ADMINISTRATOR

1. SYG WALDHEIM ADVISED SCALI THAT UNDP GOVERNING BOARD IN GENEVA HAS BEGUN BACK-STAGE MOVE TO EXTEND PETERSON FOR ONE YEAR AS DIRECTOR OF UNDP. WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY AUSTRIAN DEL WHICH REPRESENTED ON UNDP THAT MOVE HAS STRONG SUPPORT OF SWEDEN AND OTHERS WHO OBJECTING TO "DEAL" WALDHEIM IS ALLEGED TO HAVE MADE WITH AMB SCALI TO HAVE UNDER SECRETARY MORSE REPLACE PETERSON. SWEDEN PRESSING IDEA WESTERN EUROPEAN SHOULD NOW TAKE OVER AS DIRECTOR OF UNDP SINCE EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION IS NOW AS GREAT AS THAT OF USG, BUT THAT PENDING DECISION ON THIS, BEST OUTCOME WOULD BE TO EXTEND PETERSON TERM ANOTHER YEAR. WALDHEIM SAID HE RECOGNIZES THAT HE HAS MADE PROMISE TO KISSINGER AND SCALI THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT MORSE FOR JOB BUT HE GIVES SIGNS HE NOW WAIVERING BECAUSE OF UNEXPECTED OPPOSITION.

2. SCALI RE-EMPHASIZED STRONGLY TO HIM THAT USG BELIEVES IT HAS UNBREAKABLE CLAIM TO UNDP POST AND THAT SUBSTITUTING EUROPEAN FOR AMERICAN IN THIS JOB WOULD LIKELY RESULT IN CONGRESSIONAL MOVE TO DRASTICALLY REDUCE USG CONTRIBUTIONS.

3. WALDHEIM PROFESSED TO BE DEEPLY DISTURBED AT THIS
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AND SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS TO SOLVE PROBLEM

IN KEEPING WITH PROMISES HE HAS MADE.

SCALI

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